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photo by Nolan Kidwell

A variety of ethnic groups performed during International Week, drawing large crowds to the CC Mall.

Politics of art cause a 'Clash of Ideas'

by Robert A. Hibberd
Co-Editor-In-Chief

The question of whether or not public money should pay for controversial art will be debated Tuesday, May 26 at 12:30 p.m. in McLoughlin Theatre.

The CCC Division of Humanities and Social Services is bringing the issue to Clackamas. The question is, Should public

"... it's better to use public money to uphold traditions..."

--John Hooley

money pay for controversial art? John Hooley, assistant dean, humanities, and Susanna Lundgren, art history teacher, say no, while English Instructor Kate Gray and Social Science Instructor Joe Uris say yes.

The issue of public funding of the arts came into the national media spotlight when the University of Pennsylvania's Institute of Contemporary Art used a \$30,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to compile a 150-piece collection of Robert Mapplethorpe's photography.

Mapplethorpe, who died of AIDS in 1989, made photographs that were explicitly and brutally erotic, controversial and deeply offensive to certain types.

Before Mapplethorpe's exhibit could be displayed in Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., it came under scrutiny in the Congress of the United States. Republican Senators Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Alfonse D'Amato of New York were loud in denouncing Mapplethorpe's art. Helms and D'Amato argued that, by no means, should public money be utilized to support this type of art; some of the work depicts homosexuals.

At that point, the Corcoran, which relies on Congressional appropriations for some of its funding, cancelled the Mapplethorpe exhibition.

With the cancellation came a national debate focusing on Congress' use of the NEA. As Robert Brustein wrote on the op-ed page of *The New York Times*, "Once we allow lawmakers to become art critics, we take the first step into the world of Ayatollah Khomeini."

"Art has always been political in every society," states "yes" supporter Uris. "It's naive to assume that art is not political and art has always been publicly supported in every society, usually to support the ruling elites.

The only way to avoid support of the ruling elites, in a democracy, is to support art based totally on aesthetic concerns. That means that some of that art is going to offend some people some of the time."

"No" supporter Hooley feels that our society is already somewhat deteriorated and government supporting of controversial art only contributes to America's problems.

"I think it's better to use public money to uphold traditions we have in common, rather than promote things that might be even more divisive in a society that is rapidly getting so fragmented that I'm not sure what we have left," says Hooley.

"Well, if his argument holds truth, then we ought really to be portraying rape and murder in our art," Uris said in response to Hooley's analysis.

Gray, who supports public funding, views government censorship of the arts as having a tremendous affect on the way people live their lives.

"The ramifications are huge. The way that we express ourselves and the way that we think about our lives may change because of this one mandate," explains Gray.

"The way that the fountain gets decorated or the way the art

"... censorship has ramifications on each individual."

--Kate Gray

is in the buildings, the way we walk through these walls and feel about ourselves may change. To me it's astounding, the way censorship has ramifications on each individual."

Gray feels that it is vital for government to continue supporting the arts due to the money-orientated mentality in American culture.

"There is an ethic in this country that views the artist as somehow separate from the business person and therefore not as valuable," says Gray. "If we have this ethic, then it is imperative that the government fill in that gap."

The NEA is a heated issue and no one seems more prepared to discuss than Uris.

"The only thing you need to know is that I'm going to kick his butt (Hooley). It's going to be a terrible bruising to the ego. I'm not afraid that he's my boss," said Uris of Hooley.

Counseling and Career Department surprised

Vince Fitzgerald to retire

by Kevin Shields
Staff Writer

Vince Fitzgerald, the first counselor hired at Clackamas and current director of the Counseling and Career Department, will retire after 24 years at the end of this term.

Fitzgerald's retirement came as a surprise to many of the faculty members who work with and know him. Fitzgerald cited personal reasons for leaving his current position.

His wife was diagnosed with terminal cancer in February and his father died in April, leaving Fitzgerald with a decision in regards to his future at Clackamas.

"The combination of the two helped make my decision to retire," he said.

Fitzgerald was hired in the second year of the college's existence in 1968. His first job, which lasted four years, was as a part-time counselor/part-time Spanish instructor. He then moved to a full-time counselor position and two years ago became the Director of Counseling.

"Counseling was really what I wanted to do all along. Working with people's self-esteem and goals in life ... encouraging, supporting and motivating their goals."

A Masters degree in Education at the University of Portland and being licensed as a professional counselor gave Fitzgerald the background he needed to become an effective administra-

tor of the Counseling Department. This educational background, coupled with his experience within the department, helped him develop a more interrelated counseling system.

"It helped me create a more effective Counseling/Career Department ... I brought the two departments together."

Fitzgerald's responsibilities include overseeing career planning, counseling assessment and high school relations.

"The integration of services and the smooth cooperation within the department is my responsibility," he said.

Fitzgerald's main priority after his retirement is to spend "quality living time together" with his wife and family. He has five children and five grandchildren, with another grandchild on the way.

Different interests and hob-

bits said that there were aspects of his job that he would really miss, especially the people.

"The people I work with, students I assist, no question about it. From the administration to associates I've grown to really appreciate and respect. A healthy team of people with real personalities."

Susan Reynolds, Fitzgerald's current secretary, echoed his comments about having a good working relationship.

"It's always sad when you lose your boss, especially when you enjoy working with him. Vince is very open ... it's an open door policy. You can talk to him about anything."

The relationship with administrators was a good one, Fitzgerald said. He pointed out the fact that he got to know the staff real well during his tenure and he

"Counseling was really what I wanted to do all along."

--Vince Fitzgerald

bles will take up a lot of his spare time. Fitzgerald has a lot of interest in working with human services, and he and his wife, who is also retiring from counseling, plan to "use their expertise in any way" to help others. Both of them enjoy golf and traveling and Fitzgerald mentioned the possibility of visiting one of his five children who resides in Germany.

added that they were a "real pleasure to work with."

Even though he is retiring, Fitzgerald showed excitement concerning the future for community colleges and the changes that are about to take place.

"I'm really excited about the new roles (for the college) because of the Educational Reform Act," he said.